conference participant HM from the motion information, and manipulates the input image of the corresponding conference participant HM that the movement of the conference participant HM is intuitively easy to understand, as required, according to the extracted motion.

The manipulated images are output from an output terminal 253 to the information distribution section 207.

In an example manipulation performed in each of the image manipulators 250-2, 250-3, ..., and 250-n, arrows indicating the directions of the relative motions of conference participants HM located at remote places against the conference participant HM1 located on site are superposed on input images.

Fig. 34 (a) shows an input image, and Fig. 34(b) shows a manipulated image obtained when a motion direction is left.

When a relative motion is not found, a method in which an arrow is not superposed may be used. An arrow is superposed until the time immediately before a connection is changed by the information distribution section 207, described later.

In another example manipulation performed in each of the image manipulators 250-2, 250-3, ..., and 250-n, input images are moved on screens in the directions of the relative motions of conference participants HM located at remote places against the conference participant HM1 located

on site.

Fig. 35(a) shows an input image, and Fig. 35(b), (c), and (d) shows manipulated images obtained every time when a predetermined time elapses, if the motion direction is left. Input images are moved until the time immediately before a connection is changed by the information distribution section 207.

In still another example manipulation performed in each of the image manipulators 250-2, 250-3, ..., and 250-n, input images are moved on screens as described above with the background being fixed and only the portion of the conference participants HM in the input images being moved.

To implement the above-described manipulation, there is a method in which backgrounds viewed from the cameras corresponding to conference participants HM located at remote places are set to blue backgrounds (BB); portions other than the blue backgrounds are extracted as conference participants from input images by the image manipulators 250-2, 250-3, ..., and 250-n; the portions are shifted according to the corresponding motions and then attached back to the images; and a fixed background is attached to the parts other than the portions attached in the images.

Fig. 36(a) shows an example input image, obtained before movement, Fig. 36(b) shows a manipulated image obtained when a predetermined time elapses, and Fig. 36(c)

shows a manipulated image obtained when a predetermined time further elapses, if a motion direction is left. As shown in the figure, the image of the conference participant is shifted, for example, in the left direction according to the direction in which a seating order is changed with a blue background (BB) being used as a background. The image is shifted according to the corresponding motion, for example, until the time immediately before a connection is changed by the information distribution section 207, described later.

When the seating order of conference participants displayed on the monitor devices MD2 to MDn is changed, these image manipulation processes make the change and a direction in which the change is performed easy to understand for the conference participant HM1.

Fig. 32 shows the structure of the audio manipulation device 206. The audio manipulation device 206 includes audio manipulators 260-2, 260-3, ..., and 260-n for manipulating the input sound corresponding to conference participants HM.

The sound of conference participants HM are sent from an input terminal 261 to the audio manipulators 260-2, 260-3, ..., and 260-n, and the motion information is sent from the motion determination section 203 through an input terminal 262 to the image manipulators 260-2, 260-3, ..., and 260-n.